

**DRAFT – For Review Purposes**  
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**Wisconsin Program Enhancement Plan**

**Progress Report for Quarter 1**

**November 2004 – January 2005**

**Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services**

**Division of Children and Family Services**

# **Wisconsin PEP Progress Report for Quarter 1**

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## **Introduction**

This progress report describes activities completed during November 1, 2004 through January 31, 2005, which is the first quarter of the two-year Program Enhancement Plan (PEP) period. The report also describes activities that will occur during the second quarter of February 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005.

The PEP is administered by the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the state child welfare agency within the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). The PEP is being implemented with the cooperation and participation of county and tribal child welfare agencies in the PEP Implementation Team.

The progress report refers to Action Steps in the PEP. The Action Steps are included in the PEP Matrix and an updated Matrix is attached to this report. The complete PEP and information about the PEP process is available at:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/PEP.htm>

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## **PEP Implementation Team Activities**

On November 29, 2004, the Division of Children and Family Services held the first meeting of the PEP Implementation Team. The Implementation Team was created as a collaborative, cross-systems approach that will guide planning and implementation of child welfare practice and policy in order to achieve the federal performance outcomes and enhance services to Wisconsin's children and families. The Implementation Team is comprised of over 80 individuals representing a wide array of diverse fields, including domestic abuse, schools, law enforcement, juvenile justice, state courts, mental health, substance abuse, and child protective services. In addition, the PEP has representation from foster and adoptive parents, tribes, and state legislators.

The November 29, 2004 meeting was used to cover the operation of the Implementation Team and discuss PEP implementation issues. The meeting included an in-depth discussion on developing Wisconsin's first Continuous Quality Improvement Program. The Implementation Team meetings are broadcast on the Internet to allow remote participation. Information about the Implementation Team is available at:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/PEP-Team/pepTeam.htm>

In addition to the full PEP Implementation Team, the Division of Children and Family Services created the following PEP committees to help shape the policies, procedures, and practices needed to complete the 20 Action Steps identified in the Wisconsin PEP. The PEP Implementation Team will meet on a quarterly basis and each committee will meet at least monthly. The following are the PEP Committees and their responsibilities:

- **PEP Executive Committee**  
The Executive Committee of the full PEP Implementation Team will meet between the PEP Implementation Team meetings to assist DCFS in creating long term goals and strategies for the PEP Implementation Team, including the development of the agendas for the quarterly meetings.
- **Child Welfare Case Process**  
The Child Welfare Case Process Committee will clarify and develop policies and guidelines for standards of practice related to Access/Intake, Initial Assessment, and Ongoing Services. In addition, this Committee will address issues related to domestic violence and other child welfare associated programs and system.
- **Out-of-Home Care**  
The Out-of-Home Care Committee will enhance policies, practices, and procedures related to out-of-home placement, Title IV-E, Permanency Planning, Independent Living, Kinship Care, and the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).

- **Adoption Services**

The Adoption Services Committee will develop and update policies, practices, and procedures related to Concurrent Permanency Planning, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), Adoption, Adoption Search, and Adoption Assistance payments.

- **Continuous Quality Improvement**

The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Committee will design and begin the implementation of a case review model and identify the management and program information needs/reports of the counties and the tribes.

In addition, when issues and Action Steps arise that involve tribal child welfare or child welfare staff and provider training, the existing Indian Child Welfare Group and State Training Council will be consulted for expertise and guidance.

## **Quarter 1 Accomplishments**

The following is a summary of the activities completed during Quarter 1 of the PEP period through the end of January 2005. References to PEP Action Steps in parentheses are to the specific Action Steps in the PEP Matrix.

### **1. Coordination with Tribes**

The DCFS has hired a new Indian Child Welfare Specialist to work with tribes and counties regarding issues related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), other state and federal laws, and tribal involvement in all child welfare-related policies and programs. A primary responsibility of this position will be to work with tribal, county, and state staff in implementing the seven tribal priorities included as an appendix to the PEP and the Wisconsin Child and Family Services Plan.

To support consistent statewide implementation of ICWA notifications to tribes, DCFS incorporated four new templates, with accompanying policies and instructions, in the eWiSACWIS information system. The templates will be used by child welfare agencies to assure that Indian children are identified upon entry into the child welfare system and that tribes receive appropriate notification regarding the placement into out-of-home care, termination of parental rights, and adoption of Indian children. The templates were included in the December 2004 eWiSACWIS release and a DCFS Numbered Memo with instructions for use of the templates will be issued in February 2005.

### **2. eWiSACWIS Placement Manual (C.3)**

The out-of-home placement manual was initially issued by DCFS in August 2004 to provide guidance to child welfare agencies for entry of out-of-home placements in eWiSACWIS to ensure type of placement, duration of placement, and ending reasons

are recorded properly. The manual is used by caseworkers as a reference tool on how to properly enter placements. The manual is available at:

[http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge\\_web/Helpdesk/plcm\\_manual.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/Helpdesk/plcm_manual.htm)

Meetings were held in January to identify sections of the manual requiring revision and the updated manual will be released in February. The manual changes include updated screen shots for service endings to reflect recent changes to system screens and additional narrative in the beginning of the document that speaks to the new filtering for service ending. The updates define the different service ending options and provide a grid that lays out the filtering of the service ending options. The updates also include defining the use of in-home services versus out-of-home services and changing all in-home screen shots to reflect screen changes.

### **3. Policy Development Staff Resources (G.2 and S.1)**

In January, two new Child Protective Services (CPS) policy staff started employment with the Bureau of Programs and Policies (BPP). Kim Eithun was hired to lead policy development related to CPS Intake and Initial Assessment while Nicole Steger will lead policy development related to CPS Ongoing Services. These positions will be used for the appropriate PEP related projects.

Kim and Nicole also have the responsibility to provide training and technical assistance for county CPS supervisors and staff and work closely with the eWiSACWIS project team to assure that policy or procedure changes can be accommodated in the automated system.

Cathleen Connelly was hired as the DCFS Indian Child Welfare Specialist in January 2005 and will be actively involved with tribal and county staff to enhance collaboration and services. She will be involved with the Continuous Quality Improvement program so that ICWA compliance is a part of the review process. Cathleen will also work closely with the eWiSACWIS project team to identify and implement enhancements to assure compliance with ICWA.

Tracey Theise-Hover has been hired for the newly created Child Welfare Case Practice Review Consultant position and will begin employment in February 2005. As a part of her duties, Tracey will develop and implement policies and procedures for specific child welfare case reviews, lead all activities related to conducting onsite case reviews to examine child welfare practice, provide counties with specific case practice feedback, and provide needed technical assistance to enhance child welfare practice to assure compliance with state standards and policies.

The BPP will orient and train these new staff members on statewide child welfare policies and procedures. Key BPP staff who have expertise related to child welfare will provide this training. Additionally, BPP will collaborate with the Wisconsin

Training Partnerships to have these new staff attend pertinent training sessions related to Child Safety, Access and Initial Assessment, and Ongoing Services.

#### **4. Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (K.3)**

A key PEP strategy is the creation of a statewide Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center. The Resource Center will increase access to information and training opportunities for foster care agency staff and foster and adoptive families as well as provide technical assistance to agencies in the development of recruitment and retention resources and strategies. The Resource Center's priorities and development will be guided by an Advisory Committee of consumers, professionals and volunteers with experience in foster care and adoption.

The DCFS conducted a competitive procurement process beginning in October 2004 and in December 2004 awarded the Resource Center contract for calendar year (CY) 2005 to Adoption Resources of Wisconsin. Since December, Adoption Resources of Wisconsin staff have been working with DCFS to identify potential members for the Resource Center Advisory Council, hire staff, and begin start-up activities.

Adoption Resources of Wisconsin is working in a formal partnership with PATH Wisconsin, Inc. and St. Aemelian-Lakeside to create three regional offices that will allow wide access to Resource Center information and staff. In addition, Adoption Resources of Wisconsin is working with five statewide Post-Adoption Resource Centers that will allow even greater localized contacts and help form a bridge between the foster care and adoption programs. The three regional Resource Center offices are expected to officially open in the Spring of 2005.

#### **5. Managed Care in Milwaukee (L.1)**

To improve Wisconsin's capacity to provide quality out-of-home care to children, the Division of Health Care Financing issued an RFP in October 2004 to pilot a program in Milwaukee County for the provision of Medicaid-covered services to children in foster care, court-ordered Kinship care, and subsidized adoptions using a managed care organization (MCO). These children are known to have more complex physical, mental, and emotional health care needs than the general Medicaid population. Their caregivers report increasing difficulty in finding medical providers willing to accept the current Medicaid fee-for-service health care delivery system. The vendor will be selected in March 2005. The timing for beginning program operations will depend on contract negotiations with the winning vendor.

The managed care system will serve as a collaborative way to increase access to and the quality and coordination of health care services to ensure children are safe and healthy. A federal waiver will allow all children in foster care or court-ordered Kinship Care to be enrolled in the MCO. The Milwaukee County Children's Court will sign an order authorizing a child's enrollment, as well as medical and outpatient mental health evaluations if the parents are unavailable to provide parental consent.

The MCO staff will include Health Care Managers to work collaboratively with Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) Ongoing case managers to develop a comprehensive assessment of physical, mental health, and/or substance abuse information of each enrolled child.

#### **6. Proceeding to TPR When Adoptive Resource Is Not Identified (O.1)**

The lack of an identified adoptive resource is often cited as a barrier to pursuing terminations of parental rights (TPR) to make children in foster care available for adoption. In some counties, local practices delay TPR proceedings until an adoptive resource is identified. State law provides for TPR without an identified adoptive resource and DCFS is working with counties to reduce this barrier to TPR. The emphasis is on the readiness of the child for adoption rather than the availability of an adoptive resource.

Communication efforts are currently being coordinated through the Permanency Consultants of the Special Needs Adoption Program. Additional activities will be included in the Quarter 2 work on the Permanency Consultation Timeline (PCT) and in the subsequent training to be developed by Quarter 4. As part of the PCT, DCFS will develop a tool that will include input from all parties to the decision to make the child available for adoption and a letter that will be submitted to the court identifying the pertinent issues. This will be part of the PEP Action Steps D.1 and O.3 tasks for Quarter 2. The new readiness for adoption letter may require some modifications to the current letter used in eWiSACWIS.

#### **7. DCFS memo on IV-E for legal services (O.5)**

DCFS issued a Numbered Memo in 2002 authorizing the pass-through of Title IV-E administrative funds to county child welfare agencies to support the provision of legal services relating to achieving permanence for children to child welfare agencies. The program includes requirements for county child welfare agencies to establish performance expectations for their agency attorneys (District Attorney, County Corporation Counsels, or private attorneys) so petitions for child welfare cases are filed promptly with the court. Currently 22 counties have contracts with DCFS for the legal services IV-E reimbursement program.

To stimulate additional counties to participate in the program, DCFS began developing a revised draft of the memo in January 2005 and will issue the revised memo in March. At the regional roundtables for CY 2005 county plans conducted in October and November 2004, DCFS reminded counties about the opportunities to participate in the IV-E reimbursement program.

#### **8. Statewide Quality Improvement program (Q.1, Q.2, Q. 3 and Q.6)**

The first steps towards assuring the quality and effectiveness of child welfare services on a statewide basis were met this quarter by beginning implementation of the Child



Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program. The CQI program will be used with counties statewide and coordinated with existing Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare quality improvement activities in Milwaukee.

The DCFS hired the CQI Program Manager Harry Hobbs in November 2004 and the CQI Coordinator Tara Miller in January 2005. A competitive procurement process was conducted beginning in September 2004 to select a vendor to provide staff for the CQI county review process and consultation to DCFS in developing the CQI program. In November 2004, the CQI contract was awarded to The Management Group (TMG), an organization with experience conducting county reviews for adult long-term care programs. TMG has a formal partnership with the Child Welfare Program and Policy Group of Montgomery Alabama to provide consultation services.

The TMG contract funds five (5) positions to perform the CQI reviews in PEP Action Step Q.5, under the direction of the CQI Program Manager. TMG hired three of the five CQI specialists in January, with a start date in February 2005. Job offers were made and accepted for the two positions in February. The positions will be co-located with the DCFS CQI Program Manager and Coordinator. Orientation activities will include child welfare training and participation in limited case reviews.

The PEP Matrix (Q.2) specifies that limited case reviews will be conducted by Quarter 3 to collect additional information for PEP baseline performance levels that are used to establish improvement targets. The limited case reviews will be conducted in three to four counties using the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) case review tool to collect additional results to supplement the results from the federal CFSR case review in August 2003. DCFS and TMG developed a GANNT Chart in January 2005 delineating how the limited case reviews will be conducted during the period of April to May 2005.

The statewide CQI Committee had its first meeting on February 3, 2005 and planned how it will develop, pilot, and roll out the CQI protocol (Q.3) for conducting child welfare reviews in counties. The 35-member committee created four (4) workgroups to develop the protocol the CQI Team will use to conduct county reviews. Workgroup #1 will develop the first section of the protocol, which describes how counties will be selected and how they will be prepared for a review. The members of Workgroup #2 will be trained in both the CFSR and Quality Service Review (QSR) case review methodologies and review 2 or 3 cases with each approach. Workgroup #3 will develop the protocol section that describes how counties will receive the results of the review. Workgroup #4 will delineate a practical means for counties to use eWiSACWIS reports to prepare for CQI reviews, as specified in PEP Action Step Q.6.

Workgroups #1 and #3 will complete their protocols in Quarter 2 so the protocols can be field tested during the limited case reviews. Workgroups #2 and #4 will complete

their protocol sections in Quarter 3 so they can be field tested in the 3rd and 4th quarter pilots of the entire CQI county review protocol.

#### **9. BMCW Comprehensive Review for CY 2004 (Q.4)**

During the months of November 2004 to January 2005, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) conducted a comprehensive program review of cases open for BMCW services in seven different program areas during the third quarter of 2004. The review activities were designed to replicate the procedures used by the CFSR in that 1) the review covered cases in a variety of programs, 2) interviews with case managers and case participants were arranged, and 3) cases were given ratings based on qualitative measures. Additionally, the review questions and tools directed reviewers to give special attention to issues related to child safety, permanence, and well-being as they apply to particular programs. Reviews were conducted by teams consisting of Program Evaluation Managers and Site Managers from BMCW, Adoption Program staff from BPP, and community volunteers familiar with the child welfare system.

Information derived from the review will be used to determine areas of practice needing attention, support, or improvement, and to guide BMCW's efforts to maximize safety, well being, and permanence for all children. Integration of the BMCW review data with statewide CQI data will begin after the BMCW report is completed in February 2005.

#### **10. Committee to Define Staff Training Requirements (R.1)**

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Child Welfare Staff Development Requirements was established by the State Training Council in September 2004 and began meeting in November 2004. The committee met twice in the first quarter with the goal of strengthening and diversifying the child welfare workforce in Wisconsin and building our capacity to serve families and keep children safe. Specifically, the committee members are charged with the Action Step of expanding the frequency, accessibility, and application value of child welfare training in Wisconsin.

Members began their work by identifying the critical and necessary tasks a child welfare caseworker needs to accomplish. The work of the committee has been sequenced, beginning with the focus of the first two meetings on training needed at the pre-service level. A draft listing of specific knowledge a new caseworker performing the functions of intake, initial assessment, and ongoing child welfare services should have as part of pre-service has been developed and is currently being reviewed more broadly by counties and stakeholders before finalizing the list in February 2005.

## **Quarter 2 Activities**

### **1. Workgroup to Define the Scope of CPS Intervention (A.1)**

A workgroup consisting of county and tribal representatives, as well as other key stakeholders, was formed in Fall 2004 to examine issues related to CPS Access and Initial Assessment. The workgroup has been incorporated as part of the PEP Implementation Team Case Process Committee. The workgroup will develop or revise policy in order to provide more clarity and direction for CPS staff related to screening, urgency, and response-time decisions. The workgroup will also examine the eWiSACWIS design as it relates to CPS Access and Initial Assessment and make recommendations for system changes, if warranted.

### **2. Permanency Planning Procedures (D.2)**

The DCFS, in conjunction with the Director of State Courts Office, is completing a draft of a proposed administrative rule (Ch. HFS 44) on reasonable efforts and permanency planning. While the administrative rule promulgation process is underway, DCFS will begin the development of a Numbered Memo that will include all of the components of permanency planning required by state and federal law and selected additional policies and procedures that are to be incorporated into the rule.

The DCFS is completing system design sessions for the statewide permanency plan review report template that will be included in eWiSACWIS for use by all counties. This template will assure that all reviews conducted by administrative review panels include all of the appropriate determinations and recommendations to the court required by state and federal law.

The DCFS is also currently working with the National Resource Center on Children and the Law (American Bar Association) in reviewing drafts of the proposed rule and have secured approval for 10 days of consultation from them to assist us in developing training curricula on permanency planning related issues for judges, district attorneys, corporation counsels, and child welfare agency staff. The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center will also be involved in providing training, including train the trainer sessions for state, tribal, and county staff.

### **3. Informational Materials for Permanency Plan Reviewers (D.3)**

The Permanency Planning workgroup of the Out-of-Home Care Committee is in the process of gathering information from other states to use as guidelines for the development of material for Wisconsin. This material will be sent to committee members before the next meeting in March 2005.

#### **4. Clarify TPR and Adoption Procedures (D.4)**

PEP Action Step D.4 combines several issues, including finalizing TPRs prior to identification of an adoptive resource. This issue is also addressed in O.1 and DCFS is dealing with this as part of the concurrent planning timeline. At the next Adoption Services committee meeting in February 2005, the committee is devoting time to developing a form that will help objectify the process.

#### **5. Policy on Sharing Information with Relatives and Potential Caregivers (H.2)**

The DCFS has requested a legal opinion from the DHFS Office of Legal Counsel regarding what information can be shared with both relatives and other potential caregivers prior to their agreement to care for a child. State law is quite clear on the information that must be provided to foster parents and other caregivers upon placement, but the statute is silent on what information can be provided to a foster parent prior to the child's placement, or what information can be provided to a relative prior or subsequent to the child's placement. This legal opinion will determine the approach DCFS will take to resolving any issues. A proposal to change legislative language may be required if the legal opinion indicates that information may not be shared with a relative.

#### **6. Determine Support Needs of Foster Parents (K.1)**

The Services to Foster Families workgroup of the Out-of-Home Care Committee decided to examine recent surveys and feedback that agencies in each region across the state have received from foster parents. DCFS will analyze data from First Choice for Children in Milwaukee, Rock County, LaCrosse County, and stakeholder meetings to contribute to the development of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center. After identifying themes and main issues, the workgroup will determine if there are gaps in the information and, if necessary, conduct focus groups that address specific questions or topic areas. This item should be accomplished by the end of April 2005.

#### **7. Continue Training on ASFA and Permanency Planning (O.2)**

Training on the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) and permanency planning is included in ongoing training available to child welfare agencies. Much of the ASFA content has been incorporated into state law and the training curriculum for county staff presented by the Child Welfare Training Partnerships, including core courses provided to all child welfare caseworkers. Additional training will be incorporated into the activities of the National Resource Center on Children and the Law described in the section on Permanency Planning Procedures. This effort is being coordinated with the Director of State Courts Office.

## **PEP Data**

The data required for the PEP includes information on state performance relative to national standards relating to safety and permanency as well as progress on the CFSR case review outcome items for which Wisconsin established improvement targets.

The PEP data will come from several sources, including eWISACWIS reports specifically designed for the PEP, eWISACWIS data submitted for federal AFCARS and NCANDS purposes, results from the state CQI case reviews, and other data collection methods. Attachment 1 shows the data collection methods that will be used for the 20 Action Steps in the PEP Matrix.

Data will be included in the PEP progress reports for state performance on the national standards starting with the Quarter 2 PEP report. Data will be provided on a rolling quarter basis, beginning with the first data for the three months of CY 2004 which corresponds with most of PEP Quarter 1.

For the CFSR outcome items, data will be included on state performance starting with the Quarter 3 PEP report. Data from eWiSACWIS reports will be included beginning with the period of April – June 2004, which corresponds with most of Quarter 3. Data from the CQI case reviews will be included beginning with Quarter 4 with limited case reviews and Quarter 5 for the full CQI reviews.

The following is a description of PEP data activities:

### **1. Develop PEP eWiSACWIS Reports**

To develop new reports for the PEP, DCFS purchased additional services from its eWiSACWIS maintenance vendor to develop a set of 14 new reports. The reports development project began in October 2004. By the end of January 2005, DCFS completed design requirements and development for 6 of the 14 reports. Design requirements and development will be completed for 6 additional reports in February and March 2005. The final 2 reports will be completed in April 2005.

The PEP reports process has involved a broad array of state, tribal, and county agency staff in confirming the report design and validating the reports. County-specific and statewide summary results will be made available to individual counties and tribes via the eWiSACWIS web reporting system. The reports will be run on a monthly and/or quarterly basis and on an annualized basis using a rolling year so that for each quarter the performance for the past 12 months can be computed.

By the end of January 2005, reports associated with the following CFSR performance items were validated and put into production. Data from these reports and the other PEP reports will be included in quarterly progress reports starting with Quarter 2.

Safety Item 1 – Timeliness of CPS Initial Assessments  
Safety Item 3 – Safety Assessments and Plans  
Safety Item 3 – Service Response to Safety Risks  
Well Being Item 17 – Family Assessments and Service Plans  
Well Being Item 19 – Contacts with Children \*  
Well Being Item 20 – Contacts with Parent

\* Note: Wisconsin is not required to address Well Being Item 19 in the PEP.  
This eWiSACWIS report will be used for monitoring purposes only.

The service agreement with the eWiSACWIS maintenance vendor will be extended through June 2005 to allow for the completion of the remaining two reports and development of additional reports that will be used for PEP and CQI purposes.

## **2. Update Outcome Reports (national standards)**

In January 2005, DCFS completed changes to the eWiSACWIS Safety and Permanency Outcome Reports as requested by the federal Children's Bureau to ensure consistency with federal outcome report syntax. In addition, other corrections and enhancements were made to these reports to ensure report accuracy and to facilitate county-specific access to the report results. The reports will be run on a quarterly and annualized basis and will be used to monitor performance on the national safety and permanency outcomes.

## **3. Develop Report on TPR Processing by Courts (O.6)**

DCFS began working with the Director of State Courts Office (DSCO) in January 2005 to determine the feasibility of using data from the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) system to monitor the timeliness of TPR court proceedings. Data is available by county on when TPR petitions are filed and when TPR orders are granted. DSCO staff are evaluating the CCAP data to determine if private adoption proceedings can be excluded so that the data reflects only public adoption of children in the child welfare system.

## **Changes to PEP Matrix**

The following changes were made to the PEP Matrix. See the updated Matrix attached to this report for more information.

### **1. Policy on Family Visitation/Interaction (F.1, N.1 and N.2)**

Action Step F.1 includes development and issuance of a family visitation and interaction policy. Action Steps N.1 and N.2 reference an interim policy memo that will be issued while the full policy is included in the revised version of the CPS Ongoing Service Standards.

The Quarter 1 date due for Benchmark N.2.1 is incorrect. The DCFS Numbered Memo will go out in Quarter 3 as identified in Benchmark N.1.1. The N.2.1 completion date in the PEP Matrix has been changed to Quarter 3 to be consistent with N.1.1. To avoid confusion, Benchmarks N.1.1 and N.2.1 are deleted and the interim policy memo is covered under Action Step F.1

### **2. Engagement of Relatives (H.1 and H.4)**

Action Step H includes activities to enhance engagement of relatives in cases, including efforts to locate relatives. The timing of tasks in Benchmark H.1 is revised to show the steps necessary to implement improved procedures by Quarter 6. The timing of the relative placement survey in Benchmark H.4 is changed so that results are available to the workgroup developing policy recommendations.

### **3. Managed Care Program (L.1. and L.2)**

Action Step L involves implementation of a managed health care program for children in out-of-home care in Milwaukee County that will include dental and mental health components. Updates are made to the Matrix to clarify responsibilities for tasks under Benchmark L.1. For Benchmark L.2, medical Assistance utilization data is identified as a data source for program evaluation purposes and the limited case reviews are deferred to Quarter 5 to be consistent with the BMCW schedule for comprehensive reviews.

### **4. Service Array and Workload Surveys (T.1 and T.2)**

Action Steps T.1 and T.2 include surveys that will be conducted on the array of CPS services available and child welfare agency workload respectively. Updates are made to the Matrix to clarify lead responsibility for conducting the surveys and timing for collecting and analyzing the information.

**Information to Measure Achievement of PEP Action Steps**

<b>PEP Action Step</b>	<b>CFSR Items</b>	<b>WiSACWIS Reports</b>	<b>CQI Review Results</b>	<b>Other Information</b>
A – Scope of CPS	1 and 2	<b>X</b> <b>(Primary)</b>	X (Secondary)	
B – Safety Assessment	3	X (Secondary)	<b>X</b> <b>(Primary)</b>	
C – Re-entry and Placement Stability	5 and 6	X		Case File Reviews
D – Permanency and Adoption	7 – 10	<b>X</b> <b>(Primary)</b>	X (Secondary)	
E – Sibling Placement	12	X (Secondary)	<b>X</b> <b>(Primary)</b>	
F – Family Visitation and Interaction	13 and 14		X	
G – ICWA Notification	14	X (Secondary)	<b>X</b> <b>(Primary)</b>	ICWA Specialist
H – Use of Relatives for Placement	15	Possible Report	X	
I – Involving Non-Custodial Parents	16		X	
J – Ongoing Service Standards	17, 18 and 20	X – 17, 20 <b>(Primary 20)</b>	X -17, 18, 20 <b>(Primary 17,18)</b>	
K _ Support of Foster Parents	17 and 34		X	Foster Parent Surveys
L – Physical and Mental Health; including BMCW Managed Care	22 and 23	X (Secondary)	<b>X</b> <b>(Primary)</b>	Milwaukee Program Results
M – Mental Health Screening/Assessment	23		X	
N – Family Involvement in Case Plans	25		X	
O – TPR Process	28		X	CCAP Data
P – Foster Parent Role in Hearings	29		X	
Q – Statewide Quality Assurance	31			
R – Child Welfare Training System	32 and 33			Partnership Data
S – BPP Policy Capacity	N/A			
T – Services for Safety and Permanency	35 and 36			County Surveys



**For Immediate Release- Thursday, January 20, 2005**

Ethnie Groves, Governor's Office, 608-261-2156

**Governor Doyle Announces Creation of Statewide Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center as Part of His KidsFirst Initiative**

As part of his *KidsFirst* Initiative, Governor Jim Doyle announced today the creation of a statewide Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center. The Center will have locations in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Eau Claire and is scheduled to begin operations in April 2005.

"My *KidsFirst* agenda includes strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect, improve foster care and adoption services, and make investments to reduce family violence," Governor Doyle said. "The Resource Center is one of the many ways we are working to support Wisconsin's foster and adoptive parents. Those parents give so much of themselves to care for children in the child welfare system. I'm committed to ensuring they have access to additional resources, information, and support."

Governor Doyle's *KidsFirst* Initiative is a comprehensive initiative to ensure that our kids are healthy, safe, prepared for success, and supported by strong families. "The single most important thing we can do today to ensure a strong, successful future for Wisconsin is invest in our kids early - because what we do now will determine what kind of state Wisconsin will be 10, 20, even 50 years from now," Governor Doyle said.

A key item in the Governor's *KidsFirst* Initiative, the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center will help foster and adoptive families with questions and concerns and direct them to appropriate resources. In addition, the Resource Center will help families get easier access to training on a more frequent basis. The Center will also provide assistance in the development of local recruitment and retention strategies for quality foster care and adoptive homes and will support county staff who work directly with foster and adoptive families. Adoption Resources of Wisconsin was awarded the contract for the center.

"Adoption Resources of Wisconsin has extensive experience in providing resources and support services to foster and adoptive families that will prove invaluable in ensuring the success of the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center," Governor Doyle said. "We are pleased that they will be the agency working with us to create this great opportunity for foster and adoptive parents across the state of Wisconsin."

For more than 21 years, Adoption Resources of Wisconsin has worked with the Department of Health and Family Services, counties, private agencies, and families to help secure homes for children. In addition, Adoption Resources of Wisconsin operates an extensive clearinghouse of adoption information and support.